guidelines for determining admissions to engineering degree courses. It is one of the responsibilities of the AICTE to continuously monitor standards of engineering education and to take steps from time to time to ensure good standard.

For medical degree courses, the Medical Council of India has prescribed criteria for admission of students.

Reservation for Minorities in Public Employment and Educational Institutions

*94. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:
SHRI S. MADHAVAN:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering giving separate reservation to religious Minorities in public employment and educational institutions in view of their backwardness;

(b) how many State Governments have provided such reservation to Muslims as a separate group among the Backward Classes;

(c) whether there is any constitutional bar against giving reservation to religious Minorities based on their backwardness; and

(d) whether Government will consider survey of the Socio-Economic backwardness of different Minorities in the country for giving benefit under Article 15 and 16?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) to (d) There is no proposal for giving separate reservation to religious minorities in public employment and educational institutions. However, those sections of the minority communities which are socially and educationally backward have been included in the Central List of Other Backward Classes for the purposes of providing reservation in direct recruitment in civil posts and services under the Government of India.

The State Governments of Karnataka and Kerala have included "Muslims" as Other Backward Classes and are giving them benefits of Other Backward Classes.

The backward class of citizens contemplated in Article 16(4) is social backwardness and in Article 15(4) it is social and educational backwardness. Therefore, conduct of survey of socio-economic backwardness for giving benefit under Articles 15 and 16 does not arise.

Prediction for Monsoon

*95. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the predictions for rain, monsoons in general, and rain-fed agriculture for the current year;

(b) whether it is normal or deficient;

(c) whether it has adversely affected the crops already; and

(d) the steps being taken to give a better forecasting of rains in advance?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) According to India Meteorological Department's (IMD) forecast, south-west monsoon season (June to September) rainfall in the current year is likely to be normal i.e. 97% of its long period average value within estimated error limit of ± 4%. No separate predictions of rain are made for rainfed agriculture or any other disaggregated level of geographical area.

(b) The total rainfall so far (1st June to 31st July, 1995) in the current monsoon season in the country is 95% of its long period average value which is normal and within the predicted limit.

(c) There was some initial delay in sowing of kharif crops due to delayed onset of monsoon in certain parts of the country. However, wide-spread rains received from 2nd week of July and

onward have considerably improved the crop coverage and there seems to be no significant adverse effect on crops.

(d) The technique employed for producing seasonal monsoon forecast is under constant review for further improvement of the forecast.

उत्तर प्रदेश में पुरातात्विक निधि का रख-रखाव

*96. **प्रो॰ राम बख्श सिंह वर्मा:** क्या मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है कि अनुपयुक्त रख-रखाव के कारण उत्तर प्रदेश के फैजाबाद और फर्रूखाबाद जिलों में पुरातात्विक महत्व की अमूल्य निधि की दशा दयनीय है;

(ख) क्या सरकार इनके रख-रखाव एवं संरक्षण के लिए भविष्य में पर्याप्त कदम उठाएगी; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है?

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री (श्री माधवराव सिंधिया): (क) उत्तर प्रदेश के फैजाबाद और फरूखाबाद जिलों में स्थित केन्द्रीय संरक्षित स्मारकों का रख-रखाव अच्छी तरह किया जाता है।

(ख) जी, हां। आवश्यकता पड़ने पर संरक्षण के उपाय किए जाते हैं। नेमी रख-रखाव का कार्य नियमित आधार पर किया जाता है।

(ग) केन्द्रीय संरक्षित स्मारकों के नियमित रख-रखाव और मरम्मत कार्य के अतिरिक्त संरक्षण कार्य स्मारकों की वास्तविक प्राथमिकताओं और संसाधनों की उपलब्धता के अनुसार एक चरणबद्ध तरीके से किए जाते हैं। केन्द्रीय संरक्षित स्मारकों के रख-रखाव और संरक्षण हेतु वर्ष 1995-96 के लिए धनराशि का आवंटन नीचे लिखे अनुसार है:

(i) फैजाबाद स्थित स्मारक —	1,90,000/-रुपये
(ii) फरूखाबाद स्थित स्मारक —	5,45,000/-रुपये

Crusade Against the Tehri Project

*97. SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI: SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that noted environmentalist Shri Sunderlal Bahuguna has launched his fast-unto-death Crusade against the construction of Tehri Dam Project; and

(b) if so, the details of the issues involved in the construction of this project and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Shri Sunderlal Bahuguna had gone on fast and had sought the appointment of an independent committee to consider safety, economic, social, cultural and ecological aspects of the Tehri Dam Project. Shri Bahuguna has since broken his fast. The Government had accorded the approval for execution of Tehri Dam Project after careful consideration of all the above aspects.

Literacy in Bihar

*98. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) which are the districts in the State of Bihar where literacy is below the national average; and

(b) what action Government propose to take to increase literacy in these districts of the State with details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) A statement showing the names of districts in Bihar which have a literacy rate below the national average as per 1991 census is enclosed. *(See next Page)*